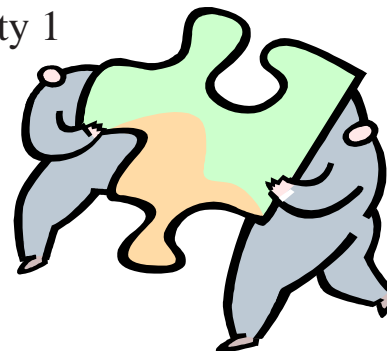




Southeast Phytoplankton Monitoring Network Introduction to Phytoplankton Puzzle Activity 1



Objectives:

- Basic understanding of food chain dynamics
- Define phytoplankton

Materials:

- Teacher Guided Discussion
- Puzzle Activity Sheet
- Crayons
- Scissors

Procedure:

Print and cut out enough puzzles for each group of students. Place puzzle pieces face down on a table at each group work station. Each group of students is then asked to put together their puzzle. Once the puzzle(s) is completed ask them to look at the picture.. Ask questions to get them thinking? (The depth of your questions will depend on age and knowledge level of your students.)

Examples:

- What do you see ?
- What is this picture showing us?
- What roles do these organisms play in their environment?
- What effects do these organisms have on people?
- What would happen if we removed one of these organisms from the food chain?

As you talk about each individual aspect of the puzzle have students color in that section. This is a great time to introduce new vocabulary words such as carnivore, herbivore, autotroph, heterotroph, food web, and energy flow. These are just a few to the subjects that can be tied into a discussion about energy flow and food web dynamics. This activity is meant to fun introduction into the marine environment.

For more information on phytoplankton please visit our website:

<http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/CoastalResearch/SEPMN>

